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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY

Czechoslovakia

SUBJECT

Soviet Pressure on Czechoslovak Agriculture

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- On 3 Feb 54 there arrived in Prague, I A Benediktov, Soviet Minister of Agriculture with a large delegation of agricultural experts. Conferences were immediately begun with Czechoslovak officials connected with agricultural production, including Vaclav Uher, Minister of Agriculture, Josef Nepomucky, acting Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Jan Krosnar, Minister of Agricultural Stocks. Due to growing tension in the country, the visit of the Soviet officials was kept secret.
- The reason for the visit was the alarming state of Czechoslovak agriculture, of which the Soviets will assume complete control until Dec 1954. Specific measures to be taken include model sovkhoses to be erected in each district under Soviet managers; the obligatory formation of kolkhozes; and an absolute priority for agricultural production, which is to be increased 28 percent during the year, with an increase in agricultural investment of 110 percent.

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SUBJECT: AGRICULTURE

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